

O.S.E.C. Reports

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SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Rifle Association was held at the Glendower Hotel on 28th March, in order to render account of past activities and to discuss and establish the programme for forthcoming activities in 1969.

Mr. J. C. Wetter was in the chair, and there were over twenty members present. Mr. Ch. Abegglen, Hon. Secretary, read the minutes of the past General Meeting, and Mr. H. Staub presented and explained the accounts which closed with a surplus of over £140. However, against this welcome surplus was recorded under liabilities an item of £120 in respect of an interest-free loan granted at the time by the President, Mr. J. C. Wetter, and it was therefore decided to repay the generous donor an amount of £60.

After this happy and well-deserved windfall, the President gave a survey of the activities of the Association during the past year. He stated that by the end of 1968, the Association numbered 84 active members. Seven shooting practices were held at Bisley during the year and 3,360 rounds of ammunition were fired, compared with 3,680 in 1967. According to the presidential report there will be 8 meetings at Bisley in 1969, namely: 27th April, 11th May, 1st, 15th and 29th June, 14th and 28th September and 12th October. Owing to the fact that in 1969 another Federal Shooting Competition will be held at Thun between 7th-27th July (*Austandschweizertag* to take place on 17th July) it was decided to hold five meetings at Bisley before the end of June, in order to give all members an opportunity to exercise their skill in rifle shooting. Mr. Wetter expressed the hope that many members would endeavour to attend this national event and invited everyone to communicate with our First Range Officer, Mr. Marcel Bucherer, Flat 4a, 21, Ladbroke Gardens, W.11, not later than 17th April.

All members present were happy to hear the announcement that the old

committee was prepared to carry on, and that Mr. Jaeggi was willing to join the committee and would also act as an additional Range-Officer at Bisley. Mr. Wetter warmly thanked his colleagues on the committee for the support they had so spontaneously given him during his year of office. Mr. Adolf Schmid, who acted as President *pro tem* during the elections, thanked the outgoing committee for the sterling work they had rendered.

The members then adjourned for an excellent dinner.

H. SCHMID,
Press Reporter, S.R.A.

NEW SHORT-HAUL JET SILENCER FOR SWISSAIR

Swissair has now put into operation at its engineering base at Zurich Airport a second silencer installation for test running the engines of DC-9 and Caravelle jets. It consists of two tubes, each 14.20 metres in length, of 3 metres maximum diameter and weighing 11 tons. The understructure permits a rapid adjustment of the tubes to the height and direction of the engines. They can be moved upwards, sideways and also in the direction of the engines. Adjustment is made manually with the aid of hydraulic and mechanical equipment.

The new installation which cost about £25,000, was designed by Schneider & Co. A.G. and built by the firm Marchi of Bioggio, Ticino. The understructure was built by H. Werhoni of Zurich.

The silencing action of the equipment is based on noise absorption as well as diffusion, like that of Swissair's first short-haul jet detuner. The airline's third silencer installation at Zurich Airport, a four tube rail-mounted detuner for long-haul jets, is based on noise absorption only; it was put into service last autumn.

O.S.E.C. REPORTS

The Swiss Office for Development of Trade (O.S.E.C.) sends the following news items:

A Swiss award the Grand Prix of the International Inventors Fair

A scientist from Basle won the International Grand Prix for Inventors 1969 at the Brussels Inventors Fair for his invention: a completely hermetic internal combustion-engine sparking plug, capable of operating under water and at a low voltage, without ignition coil condenser, or switch. This is the fourth time in eighteen years that Switzerland has won this rare distinction. Let us also mention that out of the forty inventions submitted by a Geneva company, eight won a gold medal, four a silver-gilt, fifteen a silver medal and eleven a bronze award. We shall have occasion subsequently to return to this event, in which over a hundred Swiss inventors took part.

Distinctions for Swiss apprentices

At the same time as the Olympic Games in Mexico, an international professional competition was held in Berne last year for apprentices from fourteen countries. It was stipulated that each country taking part was entitled to enter only one apprentice per trade, the aim being to compare the knowledge and skill of the young professionals of tomorrow; this competition naturally comprised identical tests for all candidates in the same trade. Out of a total of forty medals awarded, Swiss youth won sixteen, eight of which were gold, followed by the Japanese who won fourteen, and the British who carried off ten. The eight gold medals won by Swiss apprentices were for the following trades: machine draughtsman, industrial electronician, electrician, sanitary fitter, mason, cabinet maker, jeweller, and ladies' hairdresser.

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